

MEETING MINUTES 08/21/2007
FREMONT CABLE ACCESS CONTRACT RENEWAL COMMITTEE
Minutes Approved 09/04/2007

ATTENDEES:

MEMBERS:

BRANDE McLEAN- CHAIRMAN

LARRY MORSE

WARRAN YEE

PETER BEARSE

NEAL JANVRIN

TOM McGALL

GUEST:

PAULA BONACORSO

REPORTER:

KATHLEEN BAILEY

PUBLIC:

NEIL ROWLAND

COMCAST:

JAY SOMMERS

CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:37 PM, SAFETY COMPLEX

CHAIRMAN McLEAN THANKED EVERYONE FOR ATTENDING SELECTMENS MEETING 8/16/07.

MOTION BY MBR. MORSE TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF 7/24 & 8/7 MEETINGS.
SECOND BY MBR. McGALL. ALL IN FAVOR.

MBR. McGall said that Selectman Gates stated that he thought we were spending too much time on the public access aspect of the issue. Tom said that public access is 90% of the issue and without public access there is nothing.

Mbr. Bearse said that, right now access is very limited, a scarce resource and wondered what scope of public access the selectmen mean.

Chair Mclean read an e-mail from Mbr. Stanton asking about the dates of future meetings. She said that dates needed to be picked so they could be printed in the Sept. Newsletter. Mbr. Bearse said that monthly meetings would not allow us to meet the deadline set by Selectmen of Oct 15th.

A motion was made by Mbr. McGall to meet twice a month. Seconded by Mbrs. Bearse and Janvrin. All in favor.

Mbr. Morse said that we could meet earlier and longer. Mbr. Bearse said that maybe we might have to meet on a weekend.

Jay Sommers talked about the "return line". It will be from Town Hall to Exeter. This is needed to "go live". Sommers said that the selectmen were interested in doing the same thing at the Safety Complex and School. A cost of \$25,251 was given to the Committee by Sommers. This would not include any cameras, mics., generators or other broadcast equip.

Sommers said that this was not a firm price and could go up but probably not down. Sommers said that “with 1100 (?) Subscribers, it would work out to be 18 to 20 cents added to every customer’s bill, every month for the next 10 years”.

Mbr. Morse wondered what the equipment would cost. Sommers had no clue.

Guest Paula said that used/donated equipment was available in some places. She would ask in Sandown.

Mbr Morse asked what route the new line would take after it left Town Hall. Sommers had no clue.

Mbr. Morse asked if the only piece of equipment we were getting for the \$25,000 was the “MODULATOR”. Sommers said, yes. Sommers said that the cost will not come down if the school is included. Mbr. Morse said that it would make a difference if the new line went down Beede Road or straight down Rte. 107.

Chair Mclean asked what the “source” of the equipment would be and if Comcast was the only source then it is not good for pricing. She said that it was too costly, as proposed. Sommers said that he did not see the price coming down.

Mbr. Bearse said that the School should fund their portion of the costs for any lines brought to the School. He said that there is a leap being made for the subscribers to fund that. Sommers said that it was “simple math”. With 1100 (?) customers he would not get into hard numbers.

Mbr. Bearse said that the school should fund their portion of the costs.

Mbr. Bearse made a motion that Town Hall would be the primary forward line drop. Seconded by Mbr. McGall. All voted in favor to have School fund their costs, also.

Mbr. Morse wants to know the exact added costs of service to Library, Safety Complex and school.

Guest Paula said that Sandown has only one location and everything is done from that one drop.

There was much discussion from all Members about the wording of the survey. It was agreed that the cost would be put at \$3.00/YEAR.

Mbr. Janvrin said that the voters at Town meeting would have to be asked if they want this increase. Mbr. McGall disagreed saying, that this has nothing to do with the taxpayers and the selectmen will sign a contract that affects the subscribers with no vote from taxpayers. Janvrin disagreed and said that if an increase is passed that the “people will have our heads”. Mbr. McGall reminded Janvrin what happened in March when a \$400 warrant article for equipment was defeated by those attending and the reasons behind it.

Mbr. Morse mentioned that equipment at one “drop” can be moved to another “drop”.

Mbr. McGall asked if it was a longer contract, would the cost per month go down? No answer given.

Mbr. Morse said that we would owe nothing extra on the current contract once this contract is in force hence, 2 cent charge should disappear.

Sommers said that there was another way to fund equipment with a Franchise Fee. Paula cautioned that Franchise fees can only be spent on cable related items.

Mbr. McGall said that this is all about open government and safety. Mbr. Bearse made a motion that the School will be included as an "addition" to the contract to be made later. McGall- second. In favor- McGall, Janvrin, Yee, Bearse, Mclean. Not in favor-Morse.

Mbr. Janvrin reminded everyone that people need to know that the \$25,000 does not include cameras, mics., generator, tapes and etc.

A suggestion was made for everyone to see what other towns put on their channel. Neal said that we can't see that. Larry said we could go to friends & families in other towns to watch.

Paula said, it's about "open Government", what's that worth to you?

Training was brought up. Training was tabled.

Sommers said that he could supply a "contract template".

Chairman Mclean said that at the Public forum the public will be asking us questions.

Mbr. McGall said that an announcement should be put on the big sign at the Safety Complex.

Mbr. Janvrin said, yes, right after labor day.

Chair Mclean said that a group picture should be in the newspaper. She said that she had a statement from Mbr. Stanton concerning the Aug. 16th meeting with the selectmen. Stanton said that he felt that the Comcast subscribers had been insulted by the selectmen when they insinuated that getting donated equipment was like getting a "free lunch". Stanton said that the subscribers in Fremont pay over \$910,000.00 per year to Comcast and Comcast should give a little back.

A motion was made to accept the dates of the meetings scheduled by Mbr. McGall. Morse seconded. All in favor.

Mbr. Janvrin made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by several. All in favor.

Adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Stanton